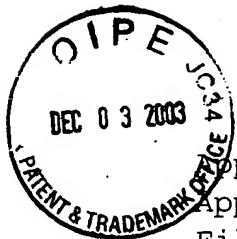


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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hoffmeier, Dieter
Appl. No. : 10/070,138
Filed : 3/4/2002
Title : MUD SUCTION UNIT
Grp./A.U. : 3746
Examiner : Michael Kuhn Gray

Docket No.: 13924NP

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

It is respectfully requested that a 3 month extension of time, until December 3, 2003, be granted in which to respond to the Initial Office Action dated June 3, 2003. The statutory fee of \$950.00 for the 3 month extension is attached. Any deficiencies in the extension of time fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 04-1577.

12/05/2003 HDAHTE1 00000092 10070138

01 FC:1253

950.00 OP

Respectfully submitted,

DOWELL & DOWELL, P. C.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "R. A. Dowell", written over a horizontal line.

Ralph A. Dowell, Reg. No.: 26,868

Date: December 3, 2003

DOWELL & DOWELL, P. C.
Suite 309, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, Virginia 22202
Telephone: (703) 415-2555

S. [Signature]
12-1-03
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EX. (B)